

years. Organizing for fair pay and safe working conditions is a fundamental right of all workers, and I applaud Local 681 for building and preserving this important tradition.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY PORTO—  
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Betty Porto of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

The success of the Porto family stems from humble beginnings in Manzanillo, Cuba. After Fidel Castro's violent revolution erupted in Cuba in the 1950s, Raul, Sr. and his wife, Rosa requested permission to leave the country. As they waited for approval, both Raul, Sr. and Rosa were dismissed from their jobs. To support their three children, Betty, Raul, Jr., and Margarita, Rosa, a talented baker, refined her recipes and started selling her cakes to neighbors and friends. The Porto family's request to leave the country was eventually approved, and they entered the United States in the early 1970s. In the United States, they opened a bakery in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles that quickly flourished, and Betty Porto, in addition to her siblings, was there to lend a helping hand.

Betty Porto attended John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, and simultaneously worked at the family's bakery, Porto's Bakery & Café, taking care of the front of the house since she loved interacting with people and enjoyed customer service. Her mother, who valued the importance of receiving a higher education and credits a large part of her success to having a bachelor's degree, influenced Betty's love of learning. Upon graduating from high school, Betty received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from California State University, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Los Angeles, respectively. Her goal was to attend law school, but she quickly changed her mind as spending time with her family at the bakery had awakened her passion for the family business, and she wanted to support her parents, keeping in mind all the sacrifices they had made to give her a better life.

Over the years, Ms. Porto and her siblings became increasingly involved in the community by supporting many worthwhile organizations, including Glendale Healthy Kids, American Red Cross, Glendale police and fire departments, and the Alex Theatre to name a few. For the past seven years, Betty has been a staunch supporter of Union Rescue Mission, donating the remaining food from Porto's Bakery & Café at the end of each day. She also gives tours of Porto's Bakery & Café to culinary students, to show them firsthand, out of the classroom setting, how to run a bakery, and has even hired some of these students to work at Porto's Bakery & Café. Betty and

Rick, her husband of twenty-five years, have two daughters.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Betty Porto.

A TRIBUTE TO LENA  
KORTOSHIAN—28TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Lena Kortoshian of La Crescenta, California.

Ms. Kortoshian attended California State University, Northridge, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, and a Master's Degree in Leadership and Policy Studies.

For many years, Ms. Kortoshian has been a pillar of education and an avid supporter of our youth. Lena's career in education began in 1986, when she was working as an instructional assistant at an elementary and a middle school in the Glendale Unified School District. Since then, she has served in many capacities, including as a mathematics teacher at Glendale High School and Clark Magnet High School, Assistant Principal of Herbert Hoover High School, and a Mathematics Administrator at the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Lena has also served as Assistant Principal and Associate Principal of Clark Magnet High School, and is currently Principal of the school.

Lena has always dedicated her time and efforts to ensure the success of her students. She served as a volunteer math tutor with the Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools, a non-profit organization that addresses both the educational and social needs of immigrant children in public schools, and continues to tutor students after school, giving special attention to each student she helps. Lena is also a Member of the Board of Regents of Prelacy Armenian Schools—a board which is appointed by the Prelate and Executive Council of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

Over the years, Lena has received recognition for her contributions to the community, such as the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce's "Friend of the Armenian Community" award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Lena Kortoshian.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
ROBERT A.D. SCHWARTZ

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay final tribute to Robert A.D. Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz died on February 18, 2017 in his Oakland, California home, at the age of 92. He was a businessman, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and jazz musician.

Mr. Schwartz was born in 1925 in Chicago, and received his B.S. in June 1944 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he joined the Navy and was sent to the Pacific.

Bob moved to Oakland in 1951, where he founded Schwartz & Lindheim and later Keysource International, which develops and manufactures specialized keyboards for industry. He later earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Golden Gate University Law School, becoming a member of the California State Bar in 1974.

In 1979, Mr. Schwartz founded the Robert A.D. Schwartz Foundation. The foundation's mission is to develop vocational, musical and citizenship educational programs. His philanthropic work also led him to serve as chairman of Urban Strategies Council, a non-profit organization, which works to eliminate persistent poverty in the Bay Area.

He also founded Peer Tutoring Resources Center, which works to support the development of caring and collaborative citizens by enhancing the use, expansion and sustainability of peer tutoring—a model engaging students as instructors and leaders in classrooms and across schools.

In recognition of his contributions to the Oakland community, Bob was named Oakland Citizen of the Year in 1996, and December 14 2016 was proclaimed "Robert Schwartz Day" in Oakland.

An avid musician, Mr. Schwartz was instrumental in reviving the Oakland Symphony, and started his own jazz band which played for seniors at local retirement homes.

As chairman of the Northern California Democratic Party, Bob worked tirelessly on many campaigns, including my own campaigns for Congress.

On a personal note, Bob was a trusted confidant, a brilliant strategist, and most important, a loyal friend who I loved very much.

I invite my colleagues to join me as I offer condolences to his loving family, and his loving wife Debba Wood Schwartz.

Robert A.D. Schwartz will be greatly missed but his legacy as a creative spirit and a trailblazer community activist will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE-MARIE JOHNSON—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year,

we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Anne-Marie Johnson of Silver Lake, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Los Angeles, Anne-Marie Johnson has been a lifelong Silver Lake resident, and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles. Since 2011, she has served as an At-Large Representative on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. In this capacity, she has co-chaired town hall meetings and has served as co-chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Ms. Johnson is a familiar face in motion pictures and television. She has starred in numerous television series such as *Melrose Place*, *In Living Color*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and for a few seasons, she appeared on *JAG*, portraying Congresswoman "Bobbi Latham." In addition, Anne-Marie has appeared on *Days of Our Lives*, *Chasing Life*, *Hunter*, *The X-Files* and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, and most recently in *Pretty Little Liars*, *Castle*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Major Crimes*, and *NCIS: Los Angeles*. Anne-Marie Johnson has an impressive list of feature film credits, in addition to the remarkable roles she has had in many television series. She has appeared in *Strictly Business*, *Robot Jox*, *Pursuit of Happiness*, *True Identity*, and *Sister Code* among others.

For many years, Ms. Johnson served as a Screen Actors Guild National Board officer, and served as the Screen Actors Guild's first vice president for four terms. In 2016, she received the Screen Actors Guild Ralph Morgan Award, and was the first African American to receive this award since the inception of the honor in 1981. In 2017, Anne-Marie received the Rosa Parks Legacy Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in recognition of her tireless efforts in the community. In addition, Ms. Johnson has volunteered with the Los Angeles Police Department, where she co-created, co-produced and co-directed a series of public service announcements called "Obey The Rules Of The Road" to bring attention to traffic safety. Anne-Marie has been married to Martin Grey since 1996.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Anne-Marie Johnson.

#### STRENGTHENING AND CLARIFYING THE 25TH AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, like many people, I have noticed a renewed interest in the 25th Amendment as we have seen erratic behavior out of the White House. As I examined the Amendment, it became clear that in the case of mental or emotional incapacity, there is a glaring flaw. In the absence of Congressional action, the constitutional language depends on actions by the Cabinet. Because the Cabinet can be fired by the President, there is a natural bias that would make them

reluctant to acknowledge the President's inability to serve. It's time to revisit and strengthen the Amendment and make sure there is a reliable mechanism in place if the President becomes unable to discharge the powers and duties of office.

The 25th Amendment was adopted 50 years ago in the wake of President Kennedy's assassination. It provides a mechanism for the succession of the President for his or her replacement in the event he or she proves unfit to serve. Under the Amendment, the Vice President and a majority of either the Cabinet or some "other body" designated by Congress, may remove the President from office.

While the language is straightforward, it raises a host of questions. This "other body," rather than the principal officers of the executive branch, is undefined and there is no guidance for how it should operate. This legislation determines the body would consist of the Vice President, advised by a majority of the living former Presidents and Vice-Presidents. These people have been President, or in the line of succession and understand the pressures of the office and the responsibilities the Presidency entails. They are of both parties, experienced, and well regarded by the American public. It is hard to imagine a better group to work with the Vice President to examine whether the President is able to discharge the duties of the office. When there are questions about the President's ability to fulfill his or her constitutional responsibilities, it is in the country's best interest to have a mechanism in place that works effectively.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS KIM—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Phyllis Kim of Glendale, California.

Phyllis Kim received her Bachelor of Arts Degree and an Interpretation & Translation Certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles. Currently, she is a court interpreter in the Korean language in Los Angeles.

For years, Ms. Kim has been very active with the Korean American Forum of California, which is dedicated to bringing public attention and recognition to the "comfort women" of World War II. From 1932 until the end of World War II, over 200,000 women and girls throughout Asia, many of them kidnapped, threatened, or lured from their homes under false pretenses, were forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan. Ms. Kim continues to raise awareness about these women, known as "comfort women," and also works toward receiving a formal recognition and an apology from Japan for its past war crimes of sexual slavery by its military, and to prevent wartime crimes against women as well as children.

Through the dedicated efforts of Ms. Kim and the Korean American Forum of California, the Comfort Women statue was built in Glendale, California. Phyllis makes every effort to visit the statue as often as she can to honor the Halmoni.

Phyllis lives in Glendale with her husband of nine years, Roy Hong.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Phyllis Kim.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KAREN VOLPEI- GUSSOW—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 14, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Karen Volpei-Gussow of Burbank, California.

For over twenty years, Ms. Volpei-Gussow has symbolized the tireless and dedicated work of a true pillar of her community. She has given of herself with joy, humility, and grace and, along the way, has changed so many lives for the better in Burbank. Her kind and relaxed demeanor is not only evident in her treasured relationships with her husband Barry, her family and friends, but also in her charitable work in the community.

Ms. Volpei-Gussow has brought her incredible talent, insight, time, and energy to numerous boards and special committees over the years. She currently sits on the Boards of the Burbank Chamber of Commerce, City of Burbank Heritage Commission, Burbank Arts for All, Burbank on Parade, Burbank Business Partners, and Keller Williams Agent Leadership Council. She serves on committees for the Providence Saint Joseph Foundation Emergency Service Campaign, Boys and Girls Club of Burbank and Greater East Valley, Burbank Temporary Aid Center, and Family Service Agency of Burbank.

Her past community involvement includes Ambassador Chair of the Burbank Chamber of Commerce, Docent at the Burbank Historical Society's Gordon R. Howard Museum, and Board Member of both the Kids Community Dental Clinic and The Burbank Association of REALTORS, Community Service Foundation.

Ms. Volpei-Gussow's charitable and professional work has not gone unnoticed as she was awarded 2012 Realtor of the Year by the Burbank Association of REALTORS and named Community Leader of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club of Burbank and Greater East Valley 2013 Gala Dinner.

Ms. Volpei-Gussow rarely says no when asked to give a helping hand, and once given, her level of leadership, support, and generosity never waivers. She is a community leader who is unafraid of challenging the ways things were done in the past as she looks towards the future with a bold new plan to make the organizations she is involved with and the City of Burbank grow and thrive.